

BLOOD ON THE GROUND  
(AND A BIG RUNAROUND?)

1-6-68

Brunson  
Box 296  
Baxter Springs,  
Kansas 66713

Jean Hill testified that as she crossed the street and went up the hill by the steps she thought she saw blood on the ground. It turned out to be Koolaid. An FBI interview says a red snow cone. Mrs. Hill was about 30 years old, a substitute school teacher and the mother of two children. There is no chance that she would mistake blood for Koolaid. Besides Koolaid will not retain its red color if spilled on either the grass or the walk. A red snow cone will retain its color only if it is not melted and ice is not mistaken ~~byxxxx~~ for blood except in metaphor. There is, however, every chance that she was bullied and confused into saying she was wrong.

Mal Couch, Dallas TV newsreel cameraman testified that he saw a pool of blood "on the sidewalk near the steps". He did not retract that pool of blood nor was he encouraged to say it was Koolaid. However, confusion was introduced into his testimony in regard to the exact location. He is finally led to say that it was 60 to 75 feet from ~~the TSB~~ Elm Street and 15 feet from the west end of the TSB. This would put it in a different place than Mrs. Hill's blood. There are two possibilities; Couch's testimony was misrepresented in the transcript; or whoever bled on the ground near the steps where Mrs. Hill saw the blood then dragged on over to the west corner of the TSB and bled somewhere. Couch's pool of blood was 8 to 10 inches.

Couch also says that a number of people were standing around pointing at this blood. There were in fact a number of people who saw this blood; but if any of them were called to testify, they did not get to mention this blood.

The blood then vanishes from the case. The Commission had no curiosity about it at all. I do.

READY'S RUN

Jack Franzen who was standing near the President's car when the shots were fired said in an FBI interview that the agents in the follow up car unloaded and these plainclothesmen ran up the knoll. James Altgens and Mrs. Gayle Newman said that "secret service men" ran up the knoll with the officers. The point here is that both Altgens and Mrs. Newman were referring to the moment right after the fatal hit to the President's head: one of the officers was Hargis, the other probably "Jackson". Altgens and Mrs. Newman were also in a position to tell who was a secret service agent and who was a civilian standing around. Besides pictures show no men standing around in plain clothes who could have been mistaken for secret service men at that moment.

Agent Ready admits he left the car but says it was to go to the President's car. Agent Roberts says he called Ready back and took him into the front seat of the car. Seth Kantor said the rumor that died hardest in Dallas was one started by a postman who claimed to be at the scene and saw a secret service man wounded and whisked back into the car and away. Photos show that the follow up car fell two or three car lengths behind the President's car right after the shots were fired. Marriion Baker said that when he stopped at the curb in front of the TSB he saw a man leave the motorcade near the President's car, run to the curb and back to the car. (Might be Lem Johns but Johns wasn't near the limosine.)

I do not think Ready was wounded because he seems to be accounted for at Parkland. However, the rumor was also going around Parkland that a secret service man was wounded. (Kantor) But Parkland had not received a wounded agent obviously. If Ready ran for the curb and stumbled, which is likely since Hill fumbled and stumbled around, and was then taken back into the follow up car, it could give rise to the rumor that he was wounded and "whisked away".

The interesting thing about this rumor is that Kantor gives someone from Jaggars Chiles Stovall part of the credit for spreading the rumor. I have long thought, because of the "Walker" letter, which denotes a time when Oswald had to be working for Jaggars-Chiles Stovall, and was yet engaging in some mysterious activity, (which Jaggars must have covered at least when they turned over work reports that indicated Oswald was regularly employed from Oct. 13 to April 6th) -I have long suspected that all is not right with that firm. Ofstein their employee thought so too. If Jaggars-Chiles-Stovall was interested in spreading a rumor that a secret service man was wounded (Kantor also says that the rumor incorporated that the secret service man was in on the plot to kill Kennedy), then it could only have been to explain that spot of blood which so many saw that day, and to scotch the rumor that it was ~~not~~ the motorcycle officer who was wounded.

You will recall that witnesses saw this officer tip over, fall off his cycle, etc.

Bowers states that this officer got back on his cycle and rode off "in a moment". I still think there is a chance he was wounded. I think he may have been seriously wounded. He might have ridden the cycle off. He might have bled internally. Someone else might have ridden the cycle off, while he dragged on up by the Texas building where Couch saw the blood (if in fact Couch didn't see it in the same place Jean Hill saw it. It now makes more sense that Mrs. Hill and other witnesses were under the impression that the secret service fired back. Jean Hill says in one interview that she "thought she saw" the secret service fire back.

This also accounts for the fourth shot so many heard after the fatal hit to the President's head. Take Emmet Hudson for instance. He was on the steps. He heard a shot after he hit the ground, he made that very clear. Yet the photos make it apparent that he did not hit the ground until several seconds after the headsmasher to the President. Holland also heard this fourth shot. Jean Hill heard shots after the hit to the President's head. The interesting thing is that none of the secret service agents admit hearing this fourth shot. (Altgens who would be susceptible to official suggestions did not admit hearing it.) Witnesses on the overpass tend to have heard this fourth shot. Mrs. Newman thinks a shot may have been fired after they hit the ground causing them to fall back. They did not hit the ground, Newman makes clear, and Hargis, until the officers and secret service men ran in their direction, or up the knoll. They are still standing after the hit to the head. (A fourth shot hitting the President in a frame after 313, say 314 or 315, would not have been heard as this later shot.)

In short it seems to me that the secret service in the person of Ready may have gone for the curb and fired a shot and hit the motorcycle officer.

b.b.